

THE WORLD'S MERCHANT SHIP- PING.

The Aggregate Shipping of the British Empire—The Second Place Occupied by the United States.

From the returns on the progress of British shipping, recently issued by the Board of Trade, we learn that the shipping of the British Empire aggregates 7,744,267 tons, of which 6,087,701 tons belong to the United Kingdom. Thus the United Kingdom owns nearly five-sixths of the shipping of the British Empire. Other maritime countries, that is the United States and all the nations of Europe, except Russia, Spain, and Portugal, possess an aggregate tonnage of no more than 11,225,211 tons. The shipping of the British Empire in mere capacity, therefore, without reference to the quality, age, or character of the vessels, is equal to two-thirds of the shipping of all other maritime countries. Next to ourselves the United States have the greatest merchant navy. Taken altogether, it has a tonnage of 4,772,217 tons. But of this total no more than 1,553,827 tons are engaged in the foreign trade. The remaining 3,250,000 tons are employed in the lake, river, and coasting trade. Into this latter trade no foreign vessel, and even no foreign-built vessel, is admitted; and the immense seaboard and vast lakes and rivers, being thus retained for the exclusive employment of United States shipping, of course, support a very large fleet. But the marine engaged in the foreign trade—which, being open to competition, is alone comparable with our own—is, it will be seen, smaller than the merchant navies of our colonies and dependencies; and it shows no tendency to increase. Next to the United States, Norway possesses the greatest tonnage, 1,245,223; Germany possesses the next largest, 1,058,263; and France almost equals Germany, 1,067,273. Thus France, with her vast seaboard, occupies only the fifth rank among maritime countries, if we reckon by tonnage only. We need hardly say, however, that it is the steam fleet which at present determines the maritime rank of a country. In steamers we are still more superior to the rest of the world than we are made to appear by the foregoing statistics. The steam tonnage of the British Empire is 2,672,804 tons; that of the United Kingdom alone, 1,940,197; while all other countries own no more than 1,838,345 tons. Thus the United Kingdom alone has a greater steam navy than all other maritime countries together. As before, the United States stands next to Great Britain, with 976,978 steam tons in the coasting trade, and 191,989 in the foreign trade; a total of 1,168,967. France now, however, takes the third place, with 194,545 tons, or a little more than the American tonnage in the foreign trade. Very close upon France comes Germany, with 189,998 tons, while Norway, which takes precedence of both Germany and France in aggregate tonnage, is left far behind in the race here.—*London Economist.*

Unique Testimony of a Jersey Sheriff.

At the Coroner's inquest over the body of Walker, alias Koster, the prize-fighter who was killed in the ring not long since, the Sheriff of Salem County, N. J., was a witness. His testimony is somewhat unique. He said: "A messenger came to my house on Thursday morning and told me that a prize-fight was about to take place at Pennsville; I hitched my horse and drove for the place; saw a lot of men there, near to a large tree; I notified a lot of Jerseymen that they might be wanted, and then I placed myself on a large stool and looked at them for a little while; and then, says I, 'Gentlemen, by the authority vested in me by the State of New Jersey as Sheriff of the county of Salem, I command you prize-fighters to get out of here.' They said, 'Oh, my, and 'Pull down your vest, which I didn't do. The most of them, though, ran away. I afterwards went to the wharf and looked the Creed-moor enter, but they came down and took her away; I forbade them doing it, but they didn't seem to care what I said; they struck me with a piece of bologna sausage on the nose, and fired a porter bottle at my head; I saw no cantelours or watermelons in the air; I attempted the arrest of one man, but he got away from me; he was the fellow that carried the bells and sponges; no one was shot on my side, but one man had a bullet go through the leg of his pants; I leaped up against a pork barrel and they riddled it with bullets; I fired two shots at them."

Hay-Fever Song.

(Maclean Island (Mich.) Cor. Chicago Times.)
A meeting of hay-fever patients was held in the parlors of the Palmer House, and after the adoption of a constitution and the election of officers the following was sung:

Oh! the golden days of summer,
Of which the poets sing,
When the grain is nearly ripened,
And the quail is on the wing,
When the bowers of roses fretting
Lay low the fields of hay,
Oh! then for the widge of a dove to fly
A thousand birds away.

CHORUS.
Thee, cub, brothers, cub, and old the song,
October frosts are cubbing—oh, they won't be very long.

Oh! the yellow days of autumn,
With the orchards budding down,
By the luscious fruits upon the trees,
When the streets throughout the land
Fill the eyes with dust and children;
When old the peaches of the trees
Are suggestive to each patient
Of a sneezing, wheezy breeze.

CHORUS.—Thee, cub, brothers, cub, etc.
Now farewell to lullies, etc.,
Farewell to bluetts, etc.,
Sneezable asthma, drowsy cough—
Good-bye the cool air breeze—
With happy digits that one can sleep,
As on a bed of roses.
Oh! blow, ye cooling breezes,
So well do blow our noses.

CHORUS.—Thee, cub, brothers, cub, etc.

Be Social.

Men who isolate themselves from society, and have no near and dear family ties, are the most uncomfortable of human beings. Byron says "happiness was born of twins," but the phrase, though pretty and poetic, does not go far enough. We are gregarious, and not intended to march through life either single or double file. The man who cares for nobody, and for whom nobody cares, has nothing to live for that will pay for the keeping of soul and body together. You must have a heap of embryos to have a glowing fire. Scatter them apart, and they will become dim and cold. So to

have a brisk, vigorous life, you must have a group of lives, to keep each other warm, as it were, to afford each mutual encouragement and confidence and support. If you wish to live the life of a man and not of a fungus, be social, be brotherly, be charitable, be sympathetic, and labor earnestly for the good of your kind.

Pauperism in England.

The annual New Year's Day return relating to pauperism in England and Wales shows that on the 1st of January, 1876, the number of paupers was 752,887, which is less by 64,935, or 7.9 per cent, than the number on the first day of last year. This shows the paupers to be 1 in 30, or 3.3 per cent of the population according to the census of 1871, but as the population has increased, the ratio in 1876 is reduced and is nearer 3 per cent. The decrease is general throughout England. In the metropolis it is 11.4 per cent; the Northwestern Division, 10.6 per cent; Yorkshire is an exception, and shows scarcely any improvement at all. Rather more than one-fifth of the paupers are in the workhouse, nearly four-fifths receiving outdoor relief. The number of adult able-bodied paupers receiving relief—namely, 97,065 (21,585 men and 75,480 women), is 18,144, or 15.7 per cent more than on the first day of last year. The decrease is 26.5 per cent in the metropolis, 24.1 per cent in the South Midland Division, 20.4 per cent in the North-western, and 20 per cent in the Eastern Division; but Yorkshire shows an increase, having a strike of ironworkers at Middlesbrough. The pauper roll of England and Wales stood as follows last New Year's Day: Men, 143,307; women, 810,292; children, under 16, 241,189; vagrants, 3,294; insane men, women, and children, 55,267. These items make rather more than the real number, first above given, owing to a few being relieved, and here counted twice over, having had both outdoor and indoor relief on the day referred to.—*London Times.*

The Law of Salvage.

The owners of the steamship Colon are considering the interesting conundrum: Which is worse, wrecking a steamer at sea, and recovering the insurance on the boat and cargo, or being wrecked in a court of law, where there is no insurance? The Colon, on her voyage out from New York to Panama, broke part of her machinery, whereupon she began to drift helplessly in a direction which would shortly take her out of the track of vessels, and into a desolate part of the ocean. In this condition she was sighted by the steamship Etna, and, hoisting a signal of distress, the Etna took her in tow, and towed her into port. For this service, which occupied six days, the owners of the Colon tendered the Etna \$5,000. This sum was refused, and \$150,000 demanded, and, payment being refused, the owners of the Colon were sued for salvage. The Colon being worth \$400,000, and her cargo being valued at \$800,000, the law of salvage would give the Etna \$350,000 for saving her. And besides being sued for salvage, the United States Government, having its attention attracted by the case, has sued the Colon for \$18,000 tariff tax on the engine which broke down and caused her misfortune, because that engine was manufactured in Scotland, and not in the United States, and imported without paying the proper duties. Meanwhile the ship has been bonded, and placed in the dry dock for repairs, while her cargo has been bonded and forwarded by another vessel. Moral: Good American engines, which don't break down, are the cheapest in the end.

A Man 125 Years Old Who Never Voted.

He is now in his 125th year, and he has never voted. Etienne Gaudinot was born in 1752, in a Canadian hamlet between the St. Charles and Montmorency rivers, below Quebec. The great battle between the French and English was fought near his father's cabin, and although he was only 6 years old, he remembers it perfectly. Indeed, the urchin saw Wolfe after he was killed, and Montcalm after he was wounded. In 1772 he married a lass, and made a clearing on the west side of Lake Champlain. The commandant of Fort Ticonderoga employed him as a scout. In 1775, having come from a scouting expedition down the lake, he was captured by Ethan Allen. He sent his mother, wife and children to Canada, where they remained until the close of the Revolutionary War. In 1793 he was trapped for furs in the vicinity of Niagara river, and served three years during the war of 1812, being wounded twice in the battle of Lundy's Lane, and being complimented by Gen. Scott for his bravery. He does not appear to have taken a hand in the patriot war, the Mexican campaign, the civil war, or any of the Fenian raids. He is now living with his great grand-daughter, near the mouth of Bullsick creek, in Franklin county, Ohio. He talks but little, hobbles about the house with a cane, smokes a clay pipe, is quite deaf, but has good eyes.—*Clermont (O.) Sun.*

Care of the Nails.

When I came down, to my astonishment, there stood the individual who was to shape my irregular nails—a tall, dark-skinned, with flowing jet locks, beard and imperial. To say I was surprised is too weak an assertion; I was struck dumb with astonishment. My teacher had just gone through with her usual purling, and bade me be seated. The operation began. First a sharp, French-shaped instrument cut the nails, sloped them on the sides with a point in the center, then a tiny pair of pincers was used to pull off all the pieces of dry skin around the nails, commonly called by us "hang nails," then a steel file was used to raise the skin and push it back so as to show the "half moon" on the nail, which is considered a part of its beauty; then a liquid was poured over it to bathe it; then dried, and a red pomade, spread thin, rubbed off with a fine yellow powder, which caused them to shine. It took about half an hour, and cost the magnificent sum of 3 francs, or 60 cents. There are women in Paris who follow this singular vocation and obtain as high as 10 francs a visit; others who have contracts by the month. They generally receive from \$12 to \$30 per month.—*Exchange.*

TOMATOES AND OYSTERS.

Men Kissing Men—shall we introduce it as a custom?

Years ago, and not so many either, says a contemporary, when the tomato was called the "love apple," and cultivated as an object of curiosity, the idea of eating it was not entertained. Its flavor to the natural taste was disagreeable in the extreme. Yet now it is universally eaten, and is considered not only the most delightful but one of the most wholesome vegetables.

So with the oyster. Nothing can be more disgusting to the eye, nothing more revolting to the stomach—that is the uneducated eye and stomach. It was observed, during the late war, that the men who came down from the mountains to the coast could not for a long time be persuaded to touch oysters, or to eat out of a vessel in which they had been cooked. They even regarded with distrust the people who did eat them, looking upon them as unnatural beings with depraved appetites. And yet neither the earth nor the air, nor the waters that cover the earth, contain aught that in all respects equals the oyster.

The generalization often drawn from the tomato and oyster is, that acquired tastes are by odds the strongest, and in many cases the most beneficial to mankind. But the latent moral, discernable only by the philosophical eye, has never yet been unfolded to a blind and uninquiring world. We announce it now. It is this:

Acquired tastes being the strongest and most beneficial, may it not be—nay, is it not certain—that mankind is losing a great deal by not cultivating those tastes, and by not searching about for food objects on which to exercise them? The French are very happy and industrious in pursuits of this character, and the result is that they can eat and enjoy anything on earth except buzzards.

But what do the Americans say to the kissing of men as a new, cheap and permanent source of deep enjoyment? We all fancy that we know what it is to kiss a woman—a young and pretty woman. The French kiss, the Germans kiss, and—do but read this:

"Osmulation is practiced somewhat promiscuously in Russia. Somebody writes: 'The Russian ceremony of saluting every one upon Easter with the sentence "Christ has risen" and a kiss, was carried out with much pomp by the Emperor and his court. Precisely at midnight, the hour being announced by cannon, the Czar, his family and all the court dignitaries, together with the chief officers of the army and navy, went in a procession into the church adjoining the winter palace. Here, at a certain stage of the ceremonies, the Czar gave three kisses each to the state dignitaries, the General, aides de camp, and the commissioned officers of the guard. Mass was then celebrated and the company dispersed.'"

So great a man as the Emperor of all the Russias may be very sure would not indulge in the above ceremony if it were so very loathsome as we Americans fancy. Ours is a miserable delusion. Away with it. We haven't a doubt but that the kissing of men is as far superior to the kissing of women as beef is to veal. Nothing can be argued from the kissing of old women, who are a kind of beardless man, because nobody kisses them often enough. If we persisted, as one does with tomatoes and oysters, old women's kisses would in time become delicious, but still not quite equal to the kisses of men. The mistake, we are assured, operates like black walnut catnip on fish.

Objections to tobacco, whisky, Swiss cheese, and perhaps onions, as inevitable accompaniments of the male kiss, will be urged by the opponents of our views. The objections have no particle of weight. Frail, delicate, refined women manage to worry through long, happy lives in spite of those trifles, and we may do the same. Let us hasten the era of high flavored masculine kisses, and leave the tame, insipid lips of women to schoolboys and preachers. We have lost ages of bliss by not doing it in times past, and we cannot begin too soon.

A New Febrifuge.

According to the French journal, *Constitutionnel*, a new febrifuge has been discovered, which will prove an excellent substitute for quinine, being the result of experiments of M. G. Doray, an apothecary of Saint Lo, who were at once conclusive as to the curative effects of the new remedy, three grammes of powdered laurel leaves cured many obstinate cases of fever. It was found effective in one instance of African fever of long standing, in which sulphate of quinine had been tried in vain. The method of preparation is simple. The green leaves are dried by a gentle heat in a close vessel and pulverized, being given in doses of one gramme in water. This discovery will prove a boon to the poor, as quinine is so expensive a drug as to be frequently beyond their reach, while the laurel is common in France, and the new preparation will be attainable at a cheaper rate. It is also stated that laurel has none of the bad effects of quinine.

The use of powerful explosives has been taken advantage of in this country far more than in the old countries. There is one way in which it is used, however, in Scotland, which we have not learned yet. That is in clearing land of stumps and bowlders. Large tracts of land near Edinburgh have been successfully and completely cleared by this means.

Madras Jugglers.

After the snake charmer has finished his wonderful performances, a stout, strong girl comes forward, makes a deep obeisance, and then, stepping back, throws a man, weighing fully eleven stone, over her shoulders. Nor does she stop here, for she seizes her victim back, and then tosses him into the air, not a broad-shouldered human being. Turning backward on her feet, she picks up straw with her eyelids, throws emeraldine, and lifts weights which would astonish the ordinary London acrobat. While she is thus performing, jugglers

are changing pebbles into birds, birds into eggs, and eggs into plants, men thread beads with their tongues, join innumerable pieces of cotton into one long cord, keep half a score of sharp knives in the air at once, throw cannon balls with their toes, and spin tops on the ends of twigs. Pandemonium reigns, the clatter is unbearable, and one is compelled to dismiss the tribe of vagrants without further delay.

NIXON'S RISE FROM THE GRAVE.

An Egyptian Juggler Astonishing the Natives in South Carolina.

[From the Charleston Journal of Commerce.]
Prof. Nixon had advertised that he would allow himself to be placed in a coffin, screwed down, and buried in a grave six feet deep. He was to remain there for one hour and a half, and then rise from the grave through the soil. The grave was dug in Belvidere, and he said that if he failed he hoped the crowd would be large enough to insure a respectable legacy to his wife and children. Upon approaching the grave Nixon was seen on a platform performing juggling tricks. He was dressed in a bright yellow coat, pink trousers (short), and about No. 11 brogans. Mr. Nixon claims to be an Egyptian. If the Egyptians ordinarily dress in that costume, Moses was justified in getting out of the country at all hazards. An Egyptian taskmaster with a brogan like Nixon's must have been able to administer a fearful kick. Nixon soon approached the grave, and made earnest appeals to the crowd to get away from it. The coffin was brought forward, and a committee was selected to see that there was no deception. Nixon now pulled off his shoes, and stood on the coffin, holding in each hand a vial. His voice assumed an unnatural solemnity. He said that he wanted silence for a while; that this was a life and death matter; his voice became husky, and perspiration began to start upon his brow. He paused a moment. A look of grave determination settled upon his face, and with a tremulous sigh he hastily swallowed the contents of the vial. In a few minutes his face assumed a deathly pallor, and dark rings appeared beneath his eyes. The spectators thought he was going to die. He lay in the coffin and the lid was screwed down. The coffin was rapidly lowered into the grave, and the earth shoveled in. The excitement increased as the time for which the Professor was to remain under ground (thirty minutes) passed. At twenty-eight minutes the excitement communicated itself to the judges, and they issued orders for the coffin to be blown, which was to summon the buried man forth. As the first note of the instrument rang out the assembly became frantic. Soon a scream rose as the earth began to crack, and Nixon came up in sight with a load of dirt on his head. Then a howl was uttered by the discovery that the Professor's appearance had been made through a neatly covered chamber, which was divided only by a thin partition from the head of the grave. He had burst the head out of the coffin, crept into the shaft, and emerged from it at the sound of the horn. He bowed his thanks and withdrew.

Poor Relations in France.

No poor rate or tax levied directly for the support of the poor is in existence in France. The support of poor relatives is strictly enforced by the civil code; the obligation presses in the direct ascending line from the child to its great-grandmother; and a son-in-law or daughter-in-law must support a mother-in-law or father-in-law where no closer relation intervenes; such obligations are all reciprocal. An almshouse or hospital relieving a pauper belonging to another commune may sue the relatives to recover expenses.

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